

CASE MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC CASE FILES (CM/ECF) FACT SHEET

April 2003

The federal judiciary is now well underway with the nationwide implementation of its new Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) systems. CM/ECF not only replaces the courts' aging electronic docketing and case management systems, but also provides courts the option to have case file documents in electronic format, and to accept filings over the Internet.

CM/ECF systems are now in use in seventeen district courts, forty-seven bankruptcy courts, the Court of International Trade and the Court of Federal Claims. Most of these courts are accepting electronic filings. More than 6 million cases with more than 15 million documents are on CM/ECF systems. And more than 29,000 attorneys and others have filed documents over the Internet. Under current plans, the number of CM/ECF courts will increase steadily each month into 2005. Each court goes through an implementation process that takes about 10 months.

Attorneys practicing in courts offering the electronic filing capability are able to file documents directly with the court over the Internet. The CM/ECF system uses standard computer hardware, an Internet connection and a browser, and accepts documents in Portable Document Format (PDF). The system is easy to use—filers prepare a document using conventional word processing software, then save it as a PDF file. After logging onto the court's web site with a court-issued password, the filer enters basic information relating to the case and document being filed, attaches the document, and submits it to the court. A notice verifying court receipt of the filing is generated automatically. Other parties in the case then automatically receive e-mail notification of the filing.

CM/ECF also provides courts the ability to make their documents available to the public over the Internet. The Judicial Conference has adopted a set of recommendations relating to privacy and public access to electronic case files. As part of the process to develop these recommendations, public comment was sought on a number of possible approaches. The Judicial Conference's Committee on Court Administration and Case Management is overseeing implementation of the recommendations.

There are no added fees for filing documents over the Internet using CM/ECF; existing document filing fees do apply. Electronic access to court data is available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program. Litigants receive one free copy of documents filed electronically in their cases, which they can save or print for their files. Additional copies are available to attorneys and the general public for viewing or downloading at seven cents per page, with a maximum cost per document of \$2.10. Directed by Congress to fund electronic access through user fees, the judiciary has set the fee at the lowest possible level sufficient to recoup program costs.

The national roll-out of the CM/ECF system for bankruptcy courts started in early 2001, and is

scheduled to take two to three years. The CM/ECF system for district courts began to roll out nationally in May 2002. Implementation of the CM/ECF system for appellate courts is currently scheduled to begin in late 2004.

For more information, please contact: Karen Redmond, Office of Public Affairs (202) 502-2600

Relevant websites:

<http://www.uscourts.gov/cmecf/cmecf.html>

<http://www.privacy.uscourts.gov/>

<http://www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/>

Courts Currently Operational on CM/ECF** Courts Accepting Electronic Filing*District Courts

California Northern*
District of Columbia*
Indiana Southern*
Kansas*
Kentucky Eastern
Maryland*
Maine
Michigan Western*
Missouri Western*
Nebraska*
New York Eastern*
Ohio Northern*
Oregon*
Pennsylvania Eastern*
Pennsylvania Middle*
Texas Northern
Wisconsin Eastern

Court of International
Trade
Court of Federal Claims*

Bankruptcy Courts

Alabama Middle*
Alabama Southern*
Alaska*
Arizona*
Arkansas Eastern*
Arkansas Western*
California Southern*
Colorado*
Delaware*
Florida Middle
Georgia Northern*
Illinois Southern*
Indiana Northern*
Iowa Northern*
Kentucky Eastern*
Kentucky Western*
Louisiana Eastern*
Louisiana Middle*
Louisiana Western*
Maine*
Missouri Eastern
Missouri Western*
Montana*
Nebraska*

Nevada*
New Hampshire*
New Jersey*
New York Eastern*
New York Northern
New York Southern*
North Carolina Western*
Ohio Northern*
Pennsylvania Eastern
Pennsylvania Western*
South Carolina*
South Dakota*
Texas Eastern*
Texas Northern
Texas Southern*
Texas Western*
Utah*
Vermont*
Virginia Eastern*
Washington Western*
West Virginia Northern
Wisconsin Western*
Wyoming

Courts Currently in the Process of Implementing CM/ECF

District Courts

Alabama Middle
Alabama Southern
California Central
Connecticut
Florida Northern
Illinois Northern
Illinois Southern
Indiana Northern
Iowa Northern
Kentucky Western
Louisiana Western
Massachusetts
Michigan Eastern
Minnesota
Missouri Eastern
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York Northern
New York Southern
New York Western
Ohio Southern
Oklahoma Western
Puerto Rico
South Dakota
Texas Eastern
Texas Southern
Virginia Western
Washington Western
Wyoming

Bankruptcy Courts

Alabama Northern
California Northern
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Florida Northern
Georgia Middle
Guam
Hawaii
Illinois Northern
Iowa Southern
Kansas
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan Western
Mississippi Northern
Mississippi Southern
New Mexico
New York Western
North Carolina Eastern
North Carolina Middle
Ohio Southern
Oklahoma Eastern
Oklahoma Northern
Oregon
Pennsylvania Middle

Rhode Island
Tennessee Eastern
Tennessee Middle
Tennessee Western
Washington Eastern
West Virginia Southern
Wisconsin Eastern
Virginia Western